

THE CCC's SIX YEARS IN PLEASANT GROVE

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The Civilian Conservation Corps had a profound affect in Utah. During the nine years of its operation (1933-42), it provided jobs and training to thousands of young men and produced both immediate and long term improvements to public and private lands. The CCC program was the most popular part of the sweeping changes made by the newly inaugurated New Deal Government of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Congress authorized it to reverse the ravages of the 1929 Great Depression that sent an estimated sixteen to twenty-five million hopelessly, unemployed roaming the country looking for a future. Of those unemployed, five to seven million ranged in ages sixteen to twenty-five.¹ The Corps was swiftly set into action, April 5, 1933, to employ those seventeen to twenty-five years of age who were unmarried, unemployed, United States citizens, and/or whose parents were on relief. They earned \$30 per month, \$25 of which was sent home to help support their families. The boys signed up for six-month enrollment periods. Many of the enrollees were just seventeen; others college graduates, and most under twenty.

Applications for the corps far outnumbered allotments. Unemployment was so great that three and one-half men applied for each vacancy nationwide. County population governed allotments of men to serve. In Salt Lake County, the ration was almost five and one-quarter men for each vacancy on the initial enrollment.² Many local boys were accepted into the Corps under Utah County allotments; the large majority served instate and a few served in neighboring states.

Most of the CCC work was to be done on public lands. Utah had twice the relief caseload of the national average, but three-fourths of Utah land was held by the federal or state governments.³ So in spite of the need for employment, enrollment of Utah men remained comparatively low because of its small population. Young men from eastern states with large city populations and little public land made up the majority of CCC enrollees serving in Utah by six to one.

Less than six weeks after President Roosevelt signed the bill, construction started on Utah camps. By the end of the first year, twenty-six camps were built in Utah with four more requested by Governor Blood for 1934.⁴ Throughout the nine years the CCC operated, 116 camps were built in Utah, though only one-third that number operated in any given year. Federal or state agencies sponsored the camps, outlined needed projects, and hired local experienced men (LEMs) to oversee the projects. The Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management were the largest users of the Corps with every part of the state benefiting.

The Corps became a vast youthful army that literally rescued the United States wilderness from the deliberate and blatant destruction that had occurred over more than a century-and-a-half of American's westward movement. During that era, 700,000,000 acres of forest was destroyed, and rangelands vastly over-grazed, depleting those resources as well as allowing erosion and dangerous flooding. And 300,000,000 acres of America's best farmland lay wasted, worn out with overuse and vulnerable to destruction by water and wind. The wind was especially devastating to the Midwest and western states;⁵ during the extreme drought years the topsoil took to the air in black billows obscuring the sun's rays for days at a time.

The need to renew the land had long been recognized, yet little had been accomplished. Before 1933, there had never been an organized group large enough to tackle the overwhelming task of setting nature's time clock back. President Roosevelt "brought together two wasted resources, the

young men and the land, in an attempt to save both." The marriage proved to be a good one.⁶ The majority of the improvements the CCC made are still in use, and are important parts of the public lands we now enjoy.

The summer of 1933 began a flurry of activity in the mountains and rangelands of Utah, where over the next nine years they planted 3,255,000 trees. Nationwide they planted 2,246,100,000 seedling trees, over half of all the forest planted throughout history; the Corps earned the nickname of "Roosevelt's Tree Army."⁷

American Fork Canyon, Deer Creek Camp F-5

The American Fork Canyon, Deer Creek Camp F-5 was the first Utah County and Utah State reforestation camp established under Roosevelt's new deal plan. Vivian West, a Wasatch Regional Forest Ranger in the canyon, had the foresight to outline work that he envisioned would improve the canyon. The site chosen for the camp is now called Granite Flat, located about six miles up the North Fork and one mile into Deer Creek Canyon. A road had to be built from the main canyon's mining road to the site and the intended camp grounds leveled and prepared. Forty men, who first completed a two-week training period at Fort Douglas, began work on the road the third week of May 1933. The first men to serve in F-5 were all from Utah with some as close as American Fork--this situation unique among Utah camps. The first American Fork recruits were Jack Butte, Oral Eskelson, Ben Clarke, LeGrande Valarida, Orson Despain, Merland Grant, Alvin Thayne, Alfred Johnson and Elmo Hunter. These men were selected from applicants because of their work experience. Unlike others, these men were sent directly to the canyon to help with construction without preliminary training at Fort Douglas. Also unlike later CCC enrollees, some of these men were married and had families, i.e., Alvin Thayne who had four children to support. The summer that the program began almost half of the men hired were older experienced men under age 25, but who were not necessarily put into leadership positions or given the pay of LEMs. However these more work-experienced men may have advanced into minor leadership positions faster than less experienced men. That summer there were six hundred men in American Fork needing work and by mid July the American Fork Bank had suspended operations leaving many families without savings to rely on. In August, after the second call up, only nineteen American Fork men served in the CCCs. The first nine men called felt fortunate to be hired to participate in the canyon work.⁸

Merland Grant's father, Samuel F. Grant who was a plumber, contracted with the government CCCs to put in the water system at the camp. Merland, just out of high school, felt that his father's influence and his experience working with his father gained him his position in the corp. He assisted his father at the start of the water system installation at Granite Flat, and within a month and before that system was finished, he transferred to Aspen Grove in Provo Canyon to supervise a group of sixty-five men who installed a larger water system for Brigham Young University Summer School. There the men lived in tents as they first did at the site of Camp F-5. Samuel F. Grant and his men created a system at the F-5 site from scratch by building a small dam across the Deer Creek stream to supply the water. At Aspen Grove Merland and his men greatly improved an existing water system. One outside tap supplied water to the entire BYU Summer School Camp. Merland supervised the enlargement of that water source and put in an extensive system, installing lines in the

then existing BYU camp buildings and piping water to existing camping areas and twenty-six proposed camp sites. After this work was done he was transferred to Leeds Camp F-24 Company 1345 to install the water system there. He stayed in Leeds for the remainder of his 2 1/2 years in the CCCs, maintaining plumbing and electric lines in that camp and in spike camps the Leeds' men worked in. Also, as a plumber, he drilled holes in rocks for blasting work on various projects that the Leeds' workers participated in.⁹

Vivian West hired at least one LEM himself. Mr. West met John Conway's wife, who lived in Pleasant Grove. He asked her where Jack was. She explained that Jack was working in a mine in Durango, Colorado, but that he did not get paid much or often. West told her to get him home immediately for the CCC was moving into American Fork Canyon. She was so glad to have her husband home and have a pay check "for it was a critical time for the children and I to pay rent, which was fifteen dollars a month, and buy coal and groceries."¹⁰

Camp construction of F-5 was under the direction of Captain L. W. Eggers from Fort Douglas with W. O. Stephens as camp supervisor. Eight Utah companies sent bids for construction materials to Army headquarters at Fort Douglas. A local American Fork company, Chipman's Mercantile, and a Salt Lake company, Morrison-Merrill, won the bids. Morrison-Merrill furnished \$4,632.44 in materials. Load after load of lumber was delivered to the building site from there as well as from Chapman's' lumber yard. The fifty men began construction of two barracks, which were to be part of the designed standard complex of buildings used in all camps, i.e., three to four barracks, a mess hall and kitchen, shower room, officers quarters, hospital, amusement room, and necessary outbuildings. The water system was installed, outdoor recreational grounds leveled off, and unique to American Fork area, "gold" gravel hauled from the Pacific Mine to cover the leveled surfaces.¹¹ The estimate cost of lumber-built camps in Utah at the beginning of June 1933 was \$4,300, not including the water system. Supplies from Morrison-Merrill alone exceeded that figure.¹²

This first camp was completed and populated with some of the men in a little over a month's time, and dedication took place June 28, 1933. Camp inspection was officially led by Brigadier General Pegram Whitworth, Lieutenant Colonel A. F. Dannemiller and Lieutenant Colonel Edwin Butcher of Fort Douglas. Afternoon sports contests and an evening program and dance took place. Charles DeMorsy, Uinta Forest Supervisor, emphasized the forestry's expectations of the work program. Patriotic and religious overtones were inserted by visiting military, state, and LDS Church officials. Speakers and musical numbers came from American Fork and Pleasant Grove. Five hundred people attended.¹³

By July 21, the camp had added seventy-five new recruits, all from Salt Lake County, making up four new squads and bringing the camp to the allotment of 200 men. Some of the first men to be employed were promoted to new leaders and assistant leaders over the new squads including Bryant Hicks of Pleasant Grove and many of the original men from American Fork.

The communities in Utah Valley began to be integrated into camp activities. Camp trucks were sent to Orem, Lindon, and Alpine to transport valley citizens to and from camp for an evening program and dance, music furnished by an orchestra formed by camp members. Jean R. Paulson from Pleasant Grove went as a stand-up comedian. He couldn't remember how good or how bad he was, "but the men were so homesick they would laugh at about anything." Men of F-5 formed a camp chorus and put together a program. They took the program to Mutual Dell, entertaining a group

on a Saturday night after Camp F-5 had beaten an American Fork team in an overtime baseball game.¹⁴

At the beginning of August the two hundred men at the camp, mostly from Utah and Salt Lake counties, were deeply involved in work throughout the canyon. They had begun building a Forest Ranger lodge to serve as a fireguard station at Altamont in Timpooneke basin. At the same time construction of headquarters facilities at South Fork was progressing. Then they connected the two facilities with a five-mile phone line. The men were working on two trails, one from their camp up Deer Creek and another from Granite Flat to Box Elder Canyon. They had completed rodent control in the canyon and a crew was sent to Cottonwood Canyon for that same purpose. Another crew built a road from Mill Canyon to Van's Dugway. Campsites throughout the canyon had been cleaned and made sanitary, and 350 tables were completed and ready for distribution at available campsites throughout the Wasatch Range. One hundred went to Big Cottonwood and Millcreek Canyons.

Timpanogos Cave was closed the summer of 1933, while still another crew of men from F-5 began building a trail from the middle of the Timpanogos Cave trail, around the cliffs to the opening of Hansen Cave. Alvin Thayne worked blasting rock along the trail that summer. While working on this project, a Salt Lake man, Elby A. Hollis, fell about twenty-feet from the trail over a ledge, breaking one wrist and injuring the other. He was accompanied to the hospital by A. G. Nord and A. R. Croft, U. S. Forest Service supervisors. The accident happened about one month away from the trail's completion.¹⁵

Senator Elbert D. Thomas, visiting the camp in late August 1933, was impressed with the camp's appearance, the variety of work, and the men's accomplishments. The cesspool and modern plumbing, and the sheeting were nearly complete at the Timpooneke station, and the rafters began going up on the South Fork Ranger Station. The crew of sixty-five men busily installed a water system at Aspen Grove in preparation to expand planned camps to seventy-five new spaces, also building bridges, planting lawn and shrubs, and preparing a parking lot. The Forest Service worked in conjunction with Brigham Young University's summer school facility directors there.

Some F-5 men developed a spike camp at Mile Rock in North Fork. Others developed a new trail from camp into Alpine Canyon. New trails built about the canyon served the needs of cattle men and made easier accesses to areas in case of needed fire and flood control work. Some LEMs who supervised the F-5 work included: Nels Swenson and Bert Wooten who took charge of the camp carpentry, Bill Larsen headed blacksmithing, Lyle Stevens, Jack Conway and Clarence Shoell supervised road work, while Ford Paulson took charge of the camp and fire guards.¹⁶

The men staked out a new road leading to Mutual Dell in the South Fork, leaving part of the old road to serve as the yard around which they built the South Fork Ranger Station complex. The four bedroom house neared completion by September 1, 1933. It consisted of a basement partitioned off for bedrooms, a main floor with a living room, fireplace, two bedrooms, closets, and kitchen with a breakfast nook. The house and an almost completed two-car garage and supply room faced toward the new road. A small ranger's office was just being started. Excavation was going on for a tool room and workshop where the old station stood. The old station was moved to another area of the canyon. Some believe to North Fork. Plans for beautification of the South Fork complex were being readied. This South Fork Station site saw a great deal of activity for this is the place where portable sanitary toilets and tables were built and painted before distribution throughout forest camp sites.

Another group of workers from F-5 were working in conjunction with the Timpanogos, Alpine, and Lehi LDS Church Stakes, making improvements on their jointly owned Mutual Dell recreation area in the North Fork. They began by leveling parking areas, preparing driveways and paths to be graveled with "gold" gravel from the Pacific Mine, and planting lawn spaces. Other improvements were planned with work and expense to be shared by members of the involved church communities, relief workers, i.e., WPA and CCC—all under Forest Service planning and supervision.¹⁷

By mid October 1933, most of the planned projects had been completed. The camp disbanded for the winter months with prospects "very good" for re-opening in the spring. Forty-four of the LEMs, from F-5 were sent to camps in Southern Utah that were maintained through the winter. John Conway transferred to LaSal Forest doing erosion control and in 1934 he transferred back to the Wasatch Forest on road and bridge construction. Approximately 156 other men from F-5 were sent to Woods Cross Camp to work on flood control projects in the Farmington and Bountiful areas for the winter. The buildings were braced and protected against the anticipated snow pack, which turned out to be only to a depth of four feet in the drought year of 1933-34. The Forest Service and the public viewed favorably this first attempt at employing government-sponsored men in public service. They felt the men were "efficient" in their work and that "a number of fine leaders have been developed."¹⁸

One last job flared-up before they left. A forest fire, presumed started by deer hunters, broke out on Graveyard Flat between Major Evans Gulch and Mary Ellen Gulch near the Yankee Mines on a Sunday afternoon. Fifty-three of the camp's remaining men were quickly dispatched to fight the blaze. During this first summer, fire fighting may not have been part of the CCC training. LEM J. Arza Adams was sent up the mountain leading a group of six men each carrying an ax, shovel, and a mattock with which to attack the fireline. His most vivid memory of CCC camp was that when he reached the top he turned around and found only one man following him.¹⁹ However, the men must have become mentally conditioned to fight the fire for they did work long hours into the night, but were unable to contain the fire. About fifty men returned from Woods Cross Camp at about 4 a.m. to relieve the first fire fighters. The fire was not completely surrounded and under control until the following Tuesday. Men were left to patrol the estimated 400 destroyed acres.²⁰

The work done in the canyons by CCC Camp F-5 during the summer of 1933 constituted the major beginning of modern improvements and reconstruction. This renovation work changed the interior of the canyons, making the canyon as a whole more accessible and usable for the public. The value of the New Deal reforestation program was proven by this and other camps that summer.

A detachment of about 25 men from the Woods Cross Camp remained in American Fork Canyon through the winter of 1933-34 working all winter under the direction of Vivian West. Their main object that winter was to get the Timpanogos Cave National Monument ready for reopening in the spring of 1934, which they accomplished by an early opening date in April. The trail joining Hansen and Timpanogos Caves was finished and improvements made to the trail leading from the cave camp to Timpanogos Cave. This detachment also finished up the South Fork Ranger Station. The fall of 1933 WPA men began the work of widening and graveled the road from the mouth of American Fork Canyon to South Fork then beyond to Mutual Dell. The work had progressed to the point of the historic "Hanging Rock," which was blasted down in late May 1934. The North Fork road improvements were made by Camp F-5 earlier. During the spring of 1934 another detachment

of CCC men returned to American Fork Camp to complete work at Timpooneke that they started in 1933.²¹

Some later work accomplished in American Fork Canyon in 1935 was by men of Pleasant Grove Camp F-43 under the direction of Vivian N. West. In November 1935, West was relieved of his duties with the Pleasant Grove Camp to assume full time supervision of the Utah Transient Relief Camp at the American Fork Deer Creek site. "This is part of his regular job of District Forest Ranger." The following January Pleasant Grove CCC Camp F-43 hosted a vocational training and education conference taught by army personnel and regional educational advisors. Those attending included "Ranger V. N. West, Mr. Mace, and Willis of the American Fork Transient Camp."²²

There were Pleasant Grove people who worked in the mining areas of American Fork Canyon during the years of 1935-36 that referred to the camp as the Transient Camp. It is undetermined as yet how the Transient Relief Camp occupants differed from the former CCC F-5 Camp occupants, or why the term "transient" was used to define the camp. However, the Transient Camp men did forest reclamation work. They also occupied the camp during the winter of 1935-36.

A man from the Transient Camp was killed early in February 1936, while removing diseased pine trees from the forest reserve in Burnt Canyon near the Cave Camp in American Fork Canyon. William P. Sommers, 21, from Rock Island, Illinois was working with two other men, Barney Jones, 53, and William W. Ryan, 60, both of Salt Lake City, when a tree, two-feet in diameter, fell on Sommers, killing him instantly. W. M. Mace from Salt Lake City was the foreman in charge of the tree cutting work. The snow that year evidently arrived late. Miners who ordinarily come out of the canyon before or just after Christmas did not leave the canyon until mid February when American Fork Canyon was blanketed with more than twelve feet of wet snow.²³

Camp F-5 at Deer Creek in American Fork Canyon was torn down in the fall of 1937 by men of Pleasant Grove Camp F-43. While the men from camp F-5 accomplished the major part of the work done in American Fork Canyon, neither the camp nor the men had the impact on the cities in the valley that Pleasant Grove Camp had. The short term existence of Camp F-5 and its isolation from the people of the county's communities prevented extensive interaction with the people.

Pleasant Grove Camp F-43

Pleasant Grove camp began, July 16, 1935, more than two years after the initial Corps began. City officials were anxious to establish a camp near town thinking to generate revenue as well as job opportunities for local men as foremen on work projects. A few neighbors contested the first site chosen, about 1000 East on the north side of Grove Creek Drive. This was a piece of ground already owned by the city. But after a petition was signed and delivered to the city officials, they backed down and purchased a different site for the camp.²⁴ The city then leased about thirteen acres of farm land just inside the city limits, 1100 North between 300-500 West, from Ida Peterson and family. By mid July, ten CCC carpenters and builders from Fort Douglas, under the direction of Lieutenants D. A. Wolfe and Charles H. Hart with construction managers D. Radabough and Mr. Poor, pitched tents on the land and began installing the water system (for which the city furnished the pipe) and poured cement pillars preparatory to the arrival on July 21 of the first prefabricated building, an insulated 171 foot long mess hall. The new innovation of cutting and numbering the building parts,

i. e., rafters, trusses, joists, and studs, before shipment from Spokane, Washington hurried the assembly process considerably.²⁵

By September 15, 1934, the buildings were finished and occupied. The camp consisted of four large barracks which housed fifty men each, officers quarters, the mess hall and kitchen managed by twelve cooks sent from St Johns' camp in Tooele County, a shower building, a recreation hall with the advantages of a radio, library, ping pong, pool, and a canteen. The complex also had a dispensary and a garage for trucks and repairs. Pleasant Grove City's population increased by 200 when the first group of young men arrived by train, most from Ohio and a few from Kentucky. Eldon Schoonover was one of the new enrollees. Captain R. O. Bunyan and Lieutenant Hart were commanding officers.²⁶

Just two days after arriving the men began hauling and placing gravel between buildings for walkways. Pleasant Grove camp under the sponsorship of the U. S. Forest Service began operation as F-43 Company 2514. Vivian F. West, the forest ranger over the local canyons, encouraged the establishment of this camp to bolster improvements and conservation work, especially important since the closing of camp F-5 at Granite Flat in American Fork Canyon. West supervised the work of the Pleasant Grove camp until November 1935. Then Frank Hyde received the appointment of work supervisor. This allowed West to continue his full-time forest service work. Projects in the canyons began immediately with 55 men being sent to a spike camp (an impermanent tent camp established nearer the work place) at Aspen Grove in Provo Canyon to install a lawn sprinkling system and work on the amphitheater. Another group of about fifty worked at widening the loop road connecting Provo and American Fork canyons. While still another group made ground improvements and began preliminary work on an amphitheater at Mutual Dell in American Fork Canyon.²⁷

The work of the CCC men attached to Camp F-43 was not always construction. Occasionally there was conservation work of another kind. About six weeks after they arrived in Utah (the last of October) a mean brush fire started high up on the north slope of Provo Canyon, a half-mile north of Nunns Power Plant. Over 107 of the boys and their foremen from the Aspen Grove and Mutual Dell crews were driven in trucks to the scene and worked until the fire was controlled. These men had been given extensive training in fire-fighting when first arriving at camp and became a ready reserve of available men equipped and ready to conquer the blaze.²⁸

When the first group of eastern men arrived, most of the townspeople were apprehensive about their intrusion into a rather isolated and shielded western Mormon culture. The unfamiliar surnames of the boys, many of which originated in central and southern Europe, sounded strange from the English and Scandinavian names of the townspeople. At first they did not trust the boys and feared for their daughters' safety with such a large number of strange boys in town. However, very few unfavorable incidents happened with this first group that resulted in boys being reprimanded.

However, one incident occurred shortly after settling into camp. On Friday night, October 26, 1935, five boys stimulated by the crisp Utah climate decided to celebrate Halloween early by destroying property and creating a general ruckus in town. Marshal A. R. Winters called at the camp Saturday morning, at Captain Bunyan's request, and escorted them to the city jail that stood behind the small soft-rock city hall on 100 East 100 South. Justice of the Peace C. O. Newman tried and sentenced them \$10 each or three days in jail. All five elected to serve time, an enrollees' pay left little to pay fines. Bunyan's discipline was dishonorable discharge and a quick trip home for the

boys. This incident, though devastating to these boys, served as an example to others that horseplay was not tolerated by neither the city nor the camp officers. The government reimbursed the city's \$9.75 food cost for the five boys' jail term. That same week six other men were dishonorably discharged for refusal to work. This treatment became the regular practice for those disobeying rules.²⁹

Another instance the following summer, June 1936, was brought to the attention of the authorities. LDS representatives from the Timpanogos High Council approached the Pleasant Grove City Council asking that they use their influence with the new commanding officer, Captain Tabor, to help curb a "certain group" of young men who were following girls, but admitted that the girls sometimes encouraged the practice. Several remedies were taken. The city passed a curfew law, providing for the night watchman to ring the bell that hung from the bell tower of the Old Bell School House (now the DUP Museum) promptly at 9 p.m., he also was to prevent loitering on the streets, and the cooperation of both the CCC officers and the girls' parents were sought.³⁰ Other than these, there are few documented complaints about the behavior outside of camp of Co. 2514 in its two-year stay.

Disagreements and fights sometimes happened on the job or in the camp that were strictly among the enrollees themselves. The foremen were usually able to control the men with no serious damage done. No Man with a criminal record was to be taken into the Corps, however, one foreman told of having five confessed murderers in his crew, one from Kentucky who admitted to having killed three times. While the foreman disliked their acts, he agreed that they were among his best workers. Cultural differences between the boys in camp often cropped up or just differences resulting from so many men working and living so closely together. In 1936, an Ohioan, who was the company's senior leader, got drunk one night; going to the kitchen he demanded that the mess sergeant, who was from Kentucky, give him the keys to the kitchen so he could get the vanilla extract. The mess sergeant refused and a fight broke out. Although guns were forbidden in camp, one appeared, and the mess sergeant was shot in the groin. Another incident occurred that may have been an extension of the first; a foreman was called in the night to immediately report to camp. He found a group of Ohio Buckeyes barricaded in one barracks and some Kentuckians in another, each promising to get the other and both announcing that they were armed. The foreman, having friends in both groups, entered each barracks and emerged with a black jack from the first group and then a pistol from the second. The ringleaders were sent home and no further trouble erupted.³¹ Most of the trouble came about after the men had been drinking. In 1936, the Utah liquor commission tightened and enforced the law controlling sale of liquor to minors, under age 21. Camp officers submitted names of the minors to the nearest package agencies in an attempt to curtail illegal liquor licenses. This did not deter underage drinkers from finding ways of getting liquor.³² Drinking, carrying and brandishing knives marked Kentucky CCC men in many of the townspeople's memories. However, drinking caused problems with many of the men from all groups that served in Pleasant Grove, even the Utah group.

From November 1, 1935 on, the camp had at least two educational advisors. Ray S. Merrill was the first to be hired. He was to hold conferences with the Corps' men and outline individual education and vocational study courses to the boys abilities and liking that could increase their knowledge and help them prepare for jobs outside the Corps. The individual interest shown the young men and the classes had a positive affect on their morale. The following January, Camp F-43

hosted a training session for all regional educational advisors and the LEMs, working as foremen, to train them to work with the enrollees. "They must teach citizenship, conservation of forests, soil, wildlife, and health." One of the first and most popular classes, taught to both foremen and enrollees, was first aid. This first class was taught by Dr. Rouche, the camp doctor. First aid became an on-going class. With special attention given to the "problem of eastern boys in Utah camps The situation called for training off the job as well as on the job."³³ Speakers were invited to the camp's evening programs to inform the enrollees about many subjects, including Utah heritage and culture. This too became an on-going program.

The men were not idle in the winter and the cold weather appears to be just a time of job change. On the day before Thanksgiving, the crew at Aspen Grove spike camp had to be quarantined when one man came down with scarlet fever, consequently, they missed dinner at the main camp. However, by Christmas all were well and their work assignment was complete so they returned to the main camp in town. After Christmas, the weather was frigid but the water was low allowing the men to lay dry rock walls, called riprap, in the winter of 1936. The river had eroded both the mountain and the road side in American Fork Canyon requiring the rock walls to prevent the erosion. During the bitter months of January and February ninety enrollees and two foremen worked excavating 11,000 cubic feet of earth and constructing 25,000 cubic feet of dry wall to control the stream. They often worked in below zero weather and stood in icy water. Innumerable tons of snow were removed to keep the roads opened and they dug through three feet of snow to find the rocks for the wall. In spite of hardships, not a single work day was lost because of accident or illness. The men enjoyed the large herds of deer sighted and were impressed with the canyon's winter beauty as they had been with its summer wonders. They marveled at the extreme heights of the Rocky Mountains compared to the rolling hills of their Midwest states.

Another group of twenty-seven enrollees worked closer to home that winter, in Grove Creek Canyon, excavating and laying a wall 550 feet long and four to five feet high on the canyon's south side. The purpose was to prevent loose shale cliffs from sloughing off and plugging Pleasant Grove's water supply. Later, a 2,000 foot long earthen dam fifteen feet high with two rock spillways was constructed below the mouth of Grove Creek Canyon to dike up and control run-off water.

A second flood control was built that first winter and spring of 1936. This was built at the base of Heiselt's Hollow, a vulnerable spot above the old Swen Monson farm in Manila. This control had come too late to prevent the devastating flood that occurred in August 1935, a month before the Pleasant Grove camp opened. An exceptionally heavy rain sent water careening down Heiselt's hollow and off the steep hillside carrying with it rocks and dirt that filled the canal and sent water flooding over farms, orchards, and into houses. Basements were filled with water and silt, rugs and home articles were ruined, and crops were destroyed. The dike came too late to help some Manila farmers.³⁴

In March 1936, enlistment time was up for the first group who occupied camp F-43. Some men chose to go home while others who liked the work and the country reenlisted. The average stay of a man in the corps was nine-months. They were offered promotions as incentives to sign up again. Many who stayed a little longer became leaders. Joe T. Chorniak was appointed Caterpillar driver, Anthony Fischio advanced to Mess Sergeant, Edward Mart became supply sergeant, and Eldon Schoonover advanced to assistant leader. A few had already returned to Ohio with an honorable discharge after receiving job offers; Clifford B. Smith, the company's pianist, left in July

1936, for Akron, Ohio, accepting a position to play for WADC radio station. Arthur Woodworth, the company's secretary and correspondent to the *Pleasant Grove Review* accepted an executive job in Ashtabula, Ohio and returned in August. Few had to return as John Mahunik did; he died of a heart ailment in April 1936 at age nineteen. He was from Youngstown, Ohio and served as typist for the forestry office.³⁵

It was in the spring of 1936 that Mayor Lyeon Johnson was informed that the camp would most likely be dissolved or moved away from Pleasant Grove. He quickly sent telegrams to Utah's senators and representatives in Washington, D. C. asking that they use their political influence to keep this camp in town. He stated, "We feel we are receiving much good from the same." The camp remained open and other men were transferred to Pleasant Grove to make up the camp quota of 200.³⁶

After the winter spent working on projects in local canyons, almost all of the CCC group was sent to spike camps outside the county in the spring of 1936. A fifteen-man camp was set up in Kamas, Summit County, to build a forest ranger station complex. They had the footings for the buildings poured by April 10, with still a foot of snow on the ground. The LEM foreman was Horace Jones. The largest operation was the Soapstone Spike camp in the Uinta Mountains. A variety of projects was carried out over several years. The first year, 1936, that F-43 was involved with this camp, Lieutenant Hart and twenty-two men were sent as an advanced detail to repair camp buildings damaged by heavy winter snow. They then built a mess hall before the main force arrived. With Captain John D. Trane in charge, the main work crews built roads, working two shifts to keep the heavy equipment in use. Recreational development, insect control, and conservation work were other aspects of their work. The first summer they worked along the Upper Provo River, Haydens' Fork road, Spring Creek road, and others. The following summer on July 30, 1937, they were building a guard station at Mirror Lake. That summer crews did some experimental work of gathering fish-related plants from Fish Lake and transporting them in barrels and transplanting them in Uinta's Mirror Lake. Succeeding trials were made from Navaho and Panguitch Lakes. They fertilized Mirror Lake with seventy-two tons of enriched soil which included phosphate and lime; this they did from motorized rafts. A group surveyed, mapped, and photographed Uinta lakes plotting fifty lakes, and they studied forest conditions, traveling by horse back. That fall, September 24, 1937, they were feverishly working through Sundays and holidays to finish constructing cabins at Scout Lake before being forced out of the Uintas by bad weather.³⁷

Near the first of July 1936, forty-three new enrollees were added to F-43 bringing the force to 150. Also that July, Captain Edwin H. Mayfield was assigned to the unit to help Captain B. E. Taber since the men were in a scattered condition in several spike camps. By the end of the month, Captain Taber was moved to Mayfield camp leaving the new officer in charge.³⁸

By September, foreman D. M. Adair moved his men from Kamas to the Pleasant Grove camp to take charge of building the amphitheater at Mutual Dell. On October 11, at 3 a.m., a special train stopped at the Pleasant Grove station carrying seventy-six new enrollees, all from Kentucky. At 6 a.m. they stood for roll call, placed their luggage on the trucks, and were marched to the camp led by Captain Mayfield, Sergeant Wilkins, and others. The rest of the day was spent issuing clothing, orienting and conditioning the group to their new surroundings. Sending men out, who's enlistments were up, and receiving new men occurred every three months. The enrollment usually remained below the 200 men the camp was built to house. The work crew from Soapstone returned by

November and brought with them small evergreen trees that were planted about the camp under the direction of Foreman Frank Hyde. Almost immediately, new work began widening the road to sixteen feet, putting in rock culverts, and eliminating curves at Holman Flat in the North Fork of American Fork Canyon. This may have been when the "CCC Trail" was made from Holman Flat to the top of Lone Pine Pass, at the head of Mill Canyon. A good hiking trail, as wide as a sidewalk and approximately two miles long, was cut with picks and shovels by the men.³⁹

General Sweeney and Colonel McIntyre inspected camp F-43, January 30, 1937, and talked individually with many boys about their ambitions, attitudes, likes, and dislikes. The men felt it was a pleasure to have the General visit. There were bi-monthly inspections from Fort Douglas officers, but rarely did a general conduct the inspection as was the case this time. That winter some of the men were working at South Fork Ranger Station in fifty to sixty inches of snow doing rock work and improvements to the water system which included putting in a small hose house. A new ranger station was started in January located on the corner lot of 100 East and 200 North in Pleasant Grove. It consisted of an office, garage, and store room. By April this unit was completed, but not painted. Barracks number one at Pleasant Grove camp was converted to a chapel and school house. Classes and church meetings had been held in the recreational hall. Dr. Joseph Hudes of Brooklyn, New York, reported for duty as the new camp doctor.⁴⁰

At the beginning of March, Spring planting began to beautify the camp and make it a "flower garden." The "whole camp" became involved in the project working Saturdays, their day off. This was an effort to integrate the camp into the town campaign to beautify and improve individual house lots and city owned property. Also a new large rock crusher was being set up in the North Fork of American Fork Canyon between the South Fork intersection and Dutchman Ranger Station. It was fully assembled and producing crushed gravel for road surfacing by mid May.⁴¹

Word was received that the entire company would be moved to Soapstone spike camp for the summer. They would be working at the head of the Provo River with new heavy equipment. An advance detail of fifty men was sent ahead to prepare the spike camp with the assignment to enlarge the mess hall and showers to accommodate an increase in men. LEMs (that have not already been named) that often worked with the men at Soapstone were John Conway and Jack McFarlane, some were able to move their wives and families to the Uintas with them where they lived in tents for the summer. Bud Conway remembers with relish his summers as a child spent living with his father, John, in the mountains at American Fork's Granite Flat camp and the Soapstone spike camp. His mother writes that they had two large army tents to live in, "We cooked and ate in one and the children had the other one to sleep in. Jack and I slept in where we ate and cooked. We drove to Pleasant Grove to do our washing." Before they left for camp, Dr. G. Y. Anderson, then the contract doctor for Co. F-43, treated several cases of measles at the Pleasant Grove camp during May. Communicable diseases often spread through the camp.⁴²

The Mutual Dell Amphitheater was completed and ready for dedication on June 30, 1937. The services were planned by the Lehi, Alpine, and Timpanogos Stakes of the LDS Church in conjunction with the Forest Service and Camp F-43 Company 2514, and the public was invited. The amphitheater, in a beautiful setting, "has a seating capacity of 600, with a concrete stage lighted for night use. The seats are of split logs with a natural finish." They made swings and teeter-totters on the grounds of the Dell and made other improvements, including a new water tank system.⁴³

All the men of Company 2514 spent the summer in Soapstone spike camp and then at summer's end, the company disband. Before leaving, the buildings were braced with heavy timbers from the inside, a precaution against the heavy snowfalls in the Uinta Mountains that would likely collapse the roofs, and the tents were returned to Fort Douglas. Preparing the buildings for winter was the usual procedure at the end of each season in the Uintas.

During the time the men were gone from the Pleasant Grove camp the summer and early fall of 1937, Bryant C. Hicks was hired as caretaker. "James E. Gurr hired him as security maintenance man, and his job included keeping the weeds cut back from the wooden buildings and the fire barrels filled with water. For his work he received scrip for pay that could be spent in the commissary." Hicks moved his family into the officers quarters. They had access to the kitchen and mess hall, and the bath house. To the children, two girls and a boy, the buildings seemed spacious. They roller skated in the wooden floored buildings and "remember mopping acres of wood floors." One day Johnny Christensen rode a horse through their living quarters—in one end and out the other. The children made themselves at home playing in the spacious yard where they also kept their domestic animals. They walked to town and school across well worn paths made by the CCC boys through the Second Ward Welfare Farm and M. S. Christiansen's orchard.⁴⁴

A new group, Company 1965, assigned to F-43, moved into Pleasant Grove camp the fall of 1937. The new company, a Forest Service company, commuted out of F-43 to field work, which included a variety of projects. Foremen George McMillan and Bill Laursen worked with crews straightening and relocating the road between South Fork junction and Dutchman Ranger Station above Porcupine Gulch in American Fork Canyon. In order to do this, they had to relocate a stream of water. Another crew worked at Aspen Grove in Provo Canyon creating new channels for the spring run-off water that was endangering the amphitheater. A large crew was assigned to dismantle the Utah Transient Relief Camp (Some articles referred to this as the ERA Camp or the WPA Camp. These references are all to the CCC camp F-5 built in 1933 at Granite Flat. This camp was mainly used the first summer and a short while in the spring of 1934 by CCC men. After that, it became a Utah Transient Relief Camp, which had some affiliation with the CCC Camps, and used through February 1936 by them, and may have been used by other groups as well.) The men were to salvage all the materials. In November and December, they dismantled, sorted, and piled the materials, and delivered two buildings to the Big Cottonwood CCC camp. The office building and one other building were moved to CCC camp F-43. The fixtures were warehoused in Salt Lake City. The site was cleaned up so that work could begin on the Granite Flat recreational area.⁴⁵

On December 20, 1937, this company, Company 1965, known as the "Wild Bunch" because of all the trouble they caused both in town and at camp, was disband and the men were broken into smaller groups and sent to various other companies throughout Utah. Despite their reputation and before they left, the men set up and decorated a Christmas tree for the incoming company, Company 3544. This gesture of comradery between CCC men did much to help the new arrivals to adjust to and feel welcome in their new surroundings. A group of 112 new enrollees from the rolling hills of Kentucky and surrounding states were the new group. Some men of this group were deceived into thinking they could easily hike to the top of the east mountains. On Christmas afternoon, a few attempted it, but came straggling back to camp vowing to get an earlier start next try. Every new group that came was treated to a tour of Salt Lake City and the sights. When this particular group entered the LDS Tabernacle on Temple Square, Frank Asper was practicing the organ. He touched

the boys deeply by playing special numbers for them, "Oh My Father" followed by "My Old Kentucky Home." Lester Taylor came in with this group which he said was a full company. More men may have been added later.⁴⁶ Captain J. Hobart Miller and Lieutenant John H. Watson left with their departing company and Captain George N. Reed, Captain Sessions, and 1st Lieutenant N. O. Kissinger were commanding officers for the new company. The education director was Paul Murdock. Foremen put the CCC men to work almost immediately. One crew set to work painting the new Pleasant Grove Forest Service office, and furnishings for the office had been moved from American Fork Canyon's F-5 camp.⁴⁷

In mid March, work was progressing on Granite Flat where individual and group camp sites were being created. Engineer T. L. Keller inspected the projects that he thought would bring decided improvements to the area. "Stoves were being rocked over, working in well with the aesthetic value of the area," comfort stations built, play ground facilities created included a large baseball diamond, and tent sites cleared. The men were also building the same types of projects in other parts of American Fork Canyon. Keller declared that these improvements would make this canyon equal to any camping area in the state. He predicated that the canyon would be highly developed making it very attractive. Granite Flat in particular would be a most picturesque area. While these projects filled their work week, on Saturday's throughout March 1938, the men volunteered and donated their time hauling truckloads of topsoil to place around Central Elementary School at 400 East and Center; and they planted the lawn and shrubs. They may have helped prepare the skating pond as well.⁴⁸

President Roosevelt ordered a newly designed dress uniform for the CCC that he believed would strengthen the morale of the men. By mid February 1938, the men were issued the new style tan uniforms. They had been wearing olive drabs (ODs) In fact, some of the first 1933 recruits were issued surplus OD uniforms from WW I. Additional space was cleared north of the barracks for morning calisthenics and evening retreat formation, when the men were to be in their new uniforms. The men presented a nice look as they stood attention at evening retreat.⁴⁹

Again the threat of the camp being taken from the town arose. It came in the form of an open letter to Utah County taxpayers that was written by the Forest Service clerk, a member of camp F-43. Civic and business leaders were quick to respond with letters to Congressman Will Robinson. Mayor Alma Kirk wrote, "We feel that the CCC camp is a vital asset to our community. Its closing would be a distinct loss to us The CCC enrollees here are a very fine group and have accomplished a commendable work It would be with regret that we would regard the closing of the camp and we will make every effort to save it."⁵⁰

Perhaps the appeal helped extend the camp a few months longer for the camp was not immediately closed. **However, the summer of 1938 found most of the men of Pleasant Grove camp F-43 again working in the Uintas and staying at Soapstone spike camp.** Lester Taylor was one of the advanced group sent ahead that year to prepare the camp for summer occupation by removing the timbers and putting up tents. Soon after that, Taylor was with the Forest Service transportation as a member of the Cs where he became acquainted with Floyd Lewis and Ray Deveraux; both were Pleasant Grove men and civilian employees who worked in CCC transportation. Taylor drove a 2,000 gallon gasoline tanker truck from Coalville to the camps and work sites. One day in the forest, he swerved to miss a deer that jumped in front of the truck, and as he applied the brakes, the truck slid on the snowy road towards a fifty foot embankment, but just before going over, the brakes took hold and the tanker tipped over. Taylor was trapped in the cab beneath the truck with two passenger

that were with him, one of whom was smoking a pipe. Thinking they would all burn to death, he yelled to the man to put out the pipe. Fortunately, Floyd Lewis was behind them in another vehicle and he helped them out. The load of gasoline was a total loss.⁵¹

During the summer of 1938, twelve men from F43 went to a small spike camp in Tooele County to build a system of water tanks to provide water for cattle and sheep in dry seasons. By July, Pleasant Grove Camp F-43 was closed.

It is not known if other appeals were made to government officials to get the camp reactivated. It stood idle about nine months before another group moved in. In the spring of 1939, thirteen men from Bridgeland camp came ahead to prepare the weed-ridden and unkempt camp for new occupants. Lowell Duvall was one of those assigned to rejuvenate the camp. Duval, a native of the Uinta Basin who had never left the Basin as a youth, recalled traveling down Provo Canyon and across Orem Bench in the spring while the fruit trees bloomed and thinking this the prettiest sight he had witnessed. Upon entering Pleasant Grove he decided this was the nicest town he had been to. Like many other CCC men, he later married and remained here for the rest of his life. By late summer, they had readied the camp for occupancy, although, improvements went on into December, laying brick sidewalks between the buildings. The rest of the company moved in from Bridgeland making a group of about 134 men. Other members of this company stayed in the Basin at Altonah spike camp to finish up project work. By mid December these forty-one men also transferred to Pleasant Grove making 175 men in all. This was the first company of all Utah men to occupy the camp.

At least one family used the Cs for off season work; Ray Luke, from Midway, would join the Corps during the fall and get out in the spring. During the summer he milked his father's cows and did work on the family farm as well as working as a life guard at the Midway Hot Pots, owned by his uncle. He had two brothers in the CCC who operated in the same way. One trading off and doing the milking job in the Winter. Some Utah men had the advantage of living close to the camps in which they served and often went home on weekends as the Luke brothers did.

That year, 1939, a CCC policy change occurred, Captain Theodore Wirak, and Captain Edman were the company's subalterns. The men no longer addressed them as "Captain," but as "Mr." The change in terminology appeared less militaristic. The change reflects the reaction of the Corps to abate criticism coming from the public and the press that the CCC was going military.⁵²

Pleasant Grove Camp, sponsored by the Bureau of Reclamation, became BR-91 occupied by Company 1968. The company changed to Company 5715 between April 1940 and November 1940 without a large turnover of men. The major work of this group was to do preparatory work on the Deer Creek Dam site, dismantling houses, cutting and removing trees, and cleaning brush from below the proposed water level. The large reservoir area was fenced and preliminary earth moving was done. Each summer a group was also sent to the Uinta spike camp, near Moon Lake, for work on the Duchesne feeder canal and Midview Dam. Edward W. Hoops was project superintendent over the work carried out from this camp. Dr. Ashton McKenny was camp doctor. From the camp funds, a 1939 Christmas gift was bought and installed in the reading room, a new eleven tube console radio with a twelve inch speaker. Through this media the men were kept informed on the European conflict and they often commented on the war in their daily camp paper.⁵³

Arrangements were made by Pleasant Grove to purchase the CCC camp property for \$1,800. (The city had leased the land for five years.) An agreement was then signed to grant BR-91 free

rental for twelve months, July 1940 to June 30, 1941. Water was furnished by the city for this next year, as it had been in the past, with the right for the government to renew both arrangements extended for the next five years. The city fathers were in favor of keeping the camp in town as long as they could no matter what the cost.⁵⁴

The war was bringing about changes in the men's lives. In January 1940, all the men were required to send their military uniforms to a Provo Cleaners to have chevrons attached to the sleeves designating each of their ranks. They were also issued new overseas caps with the CCC logo sewn on. Vocational and educational classes became accelerated and mandatory to prepare them for military support. They converted two buildings into classrooms. Barracks one through four competed weekly for best inspection and best behavior. The men did morning calisthenics, standing inspection, and evening retreat around their new metal flag pole and clearing north of the buildings. They were also ordered to do infantry drill for physical conditioning. Many changes in CCC policy and discipline took place during the six years the camp existed.⁵⁵

Community Social Interaction

Through the years that the camp was in Pleasant Grove, a great deal of social interchange took place between the community and the CCC men. The week that the first boys arrived they were welcomed by the mayor who took with him local home talent to entertain the boys. This was just the beginning of a stream of entertainers that flowed into the camp weekly and often semiweekly. Included were: high school bands and orchestras and the best student talent of all kinds from Pleasant Grove and surrounding cities, Brigham Young University clubs, LDS Mutual groups, and civic clubs also got involved to help make the boys feel a part of community life.

In November 1935, surrounding communities, Orem, Provo, and American Fork, joined Pleasant Grove High School administrators and students to put on a special musical program with CCC boys participating. After the program, they all went from the school auditorium to the gymnasium for an orchestra accompanied dance. Many dances were held in the community on special occasions with invitations going out to the camp's occupants. The enrollees drama club reciprocated by taking programs to high schools and Old Folks banquets. These boys were not mediocre; a quartet won an American Fork talent contest in March 1936. First prize was a spot on KSL radio in Salt Lake City—their second radio appearance in less than a month. The quartet consisted of Joseph Webb and Albert Riccardi on mandolin and guitar accompanying themselves singing with James Allen and Edwin Scheck. Arthur Woodworth wrote about their purpose in the Cs and their accomplishments. Woodworth was the first of several camp clerks responsible for the weekly columns in the *Pleasant Grove Review* that informed townspeople of camp activities and letting them know how much the town's interaction was appreciated by the boys.⁵⁶

Recreation was another level of participation with the community. From the beginning, the enrollees' teams were welcomed into the LDS baseball and basketball M-Men leagues. Some years the camp participated with Utah County's commercially sponsored leagues, or with inter-CCC camp leagues. They had regular practice times scheduled at the high school gymnasium and city ball parks.

Timpanogos Stake and its wards faithfully provided Sunday services, usually nondenominational, for the camp. BYU and other stakes also participated. Occasionally Catholic Father Frederick G. Lamb from Provo would hold Mass. And once in a while Protestant services were offered by a variety of Priests from Salt Lake City and as far away as Park City. Fort Douglas also provided an available Chaplin that would help the men sort out their problems.

Many of the townspeople individually befriended the young enrollees. One was Mrs. Ellenora Peterson, age 67, who lived near the camp and always talked with the boys over the fence when she was gardening and they passed her house. She enjoyed their company as they enjoyed hers. Perhaps she was the grand-motherly image that reminded them of home; they adopted her and called her "Our Girl." She convinced two of the boys to read the *Book of Mormon* before her death in 1938.⁵⁷

The north side of Jacob Fred Foutz's fourteen acre farm joined the south of the CCC camp. He often hired the young men on Saturday to help him with his farm work. Foutz and his wife never locked their doors, trusting and never fearing the young men. They were surprised one morning when they awoke to find one of the CCC fellows they knew asleep on the kitchen couch. The night before he had returned from town drunk and got as far as their house, making himself at home in their kitchen.

Ethel Foutz Allen, the daughter of Jacob, and her husband, Ethan, hired a young CCC man to clean used bricks they were using to build their house. The youth was homesick and desperately wanted to earn money to return home.⁵⁸

Every year on April 5, an open house was held at the camp to commemorate the day the Civilian Conservation Corps came into being. The entire facility was open for public tours with a barbecue served to the guests. The town and the camp both furnished entertainment that went on all afternoon and evening. In 1937, Howard Nelson's orchestra and his electric Hawaiian guitar furnished the evening dance music. These open houses, always very successful, usually drew crowds of townspeople similar to the 300 that came in 1937. The camp cooks would do themselves proud preparing large amounts of food. Cloyd Christianson remembers coming to these events as a child with his father and peering up over tables covered with trays of decorated donuts, such delicacies he had never seen before, having been raised during The Great Depression.

Another celebration that the CCC boys enjoyed was Strawberry Days. Still in its infancy, the town celebration was very much a cooperative social affair with much of the populace involved in some aspect of the activities. The CCC men liked to attend and socialize as much as the townspeople did. When away at spike camps, the men exhausted every means and tried every excuse to get into town for the celebration. Perhaps it was on one of these occasions that a group of men, anxious to get to town for the weekend, rode in the back of a truck driven by Eldon Schoonover. The only problem was that the truck was without brakes, and it turned into a harrowing, unbelievable experience, coming from Soapstone through the canyons. They made it safely, but Eldon never cared to repeat that trip. The men not only took enjoyment from the town celebration, but they gave service to the community in many ways such as in 1940, when they served over 5,000 dishes of strawberries, sugar, and cream, although, the weather was inclement. These social occasions helped improve relations between men of the camp and the community.⁵⁹

The consensus of the camp directors was, "Camp is a definite part of the industrial, social, and civic life [of Pleasant Grove] and we want a feeling of neighborliness and understanding to exist at all times." From the response of many of the townspeople, this thought was shared.⁶⁰

Within the camp there were many activities going on. They published their own weekly newspaper, "Mt Timpanogos Crier," beginning in October 1936. It was first duplicated on Pleasant Grove High School's mimeograph machine until mid-June 1937 when the camp secured a Speed-O-Print machine. In March 1938, the new company named their paper "WOIK," the initials of their home states, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky. The all Utah group published a daily sheet, the "P. G. Bee." Some hobby classes were taught by enrollees. William Bebe taught sketching and painting, and Tony Fischio taught photography, a favorite class of the men and their foremen.

The End

CCC camps met their demise with the United States involvement in WW II which brought about a combination of situations—less government appropriated funds for CCC (the greater need going to the Army and Navy), fewer enrollees because of work opportunities created by the war effort, and youth losing interest in the Corps because of increased military-like training. Pleasant Grove camp was closed August 20, 1941. All camps closed by June 1942.

Pleasant Grove camp's buildings remained in place but the furnishings may have been warehoused or used elsewhere. On December 7, 1941 the United States was suddenly involved in a war on two fronts. The need to quickly mobilize and train large groups of men created pressure on the few army and navy centers available. Many of the CCC camps served as short term facilities to house military units until new bases could be built. By April 10, 1942, the *Pleasant Grove Review* called for used furniture to furnish the "army camp's reception center for the boys stationed there." They urgently needed lamps, chairs, couches, tables, and games to furnish the Pleasant Grove CCC camp for their comfort. The following week the entire community of Pleasant Grove received an invited to a welcome dance for soldiers stationed at the Camp. In the town's friendly fashion, city officials and the Chamber of Commerce urged the entire community to turn out and show their respect for the boys serving in Uncle Sam's forces. They especially desired to have all girls senior high age and over assist in the entertaining. Girls must to be accompanied by parents as chaperons. Unlike the CCC boys, the soldiers were transported in a group and taken home the same way.⁶¹ It is not known how long this group of soldiers stayed.

Towards the last few days of July 1941, another group moved into the camp, the 382nd Air Force Quarters Support Group moved in. These men were marking time until the completion of their air base in Pocatello, Idaho.⁶² Still another known group came to the camp, an all Black group of soldiers. Many of the townspeople remembered these men because of the distinct cultural difference they felt existed between the men and themselves. The quiet community of Pleasant Grove had been stirred up and at times shocked by the CCC boys during the past years, but nothing as outspoken as this group. Open soliciting for a brothel for a town brothel made by one of the black men to a woman sweet-shop proprietor created an indignant furor within her. Quietly but immediately, the camp commander was called to escort the unwanted men out of her establishment. After that they were brought to town as a group escorted by officers, seated in a roped off section of the theater, and escorted out of town as a group. Just a short time later the entire group was shipped out.⁶³ It should

not go unsaid that a small brothel operated from a nickelodeon for the white men with the army group.

Pleasant Grove never sank back into its secure quiet farm life isolated from the world, it had been exposed to too many outsiders, some of whom married local girls and became part of the town's family life, and contributed to the solid citizenry and betterment of the community. WW II and the draft created a time of homogenization—this time it was Pleasant Grove's sons and daughters mixing with strange peoples and lands. So also, the building of the CCC Camp was the prelude to that dramatic change—the outlook, nature, and make up of this small town changed to a new understanding of people and created a different mixture, but still with a uniqueness of its very own.⁶⁴

Endnotes

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60. *Review*, September 11, 1936.

61. *Review*, April 10, 1942.

62. Paul J. Dolan of Tonawanda, New York and Tom Mooney of Westwood, New Jersey, interviews July 19, 1992, at Pleasant Grove, Utah. The two men were stationed at Pleasant Grove with the 382nd Air Group. They came back to visit the CCC camp site, July 19, 1992.

63. Cloyd Christiansen interview; Olsen; Grant Radmall interview, June 11, 1989 by Mildred B. Sutch. Both men remember the impact the Black group had on the town.

64. A special thanks to Eldon Schoonover, Lowell Duvall, Jay C. Rose, Lester Taylor, Glen Newman, Ray H. Luke, Ray A. Deveraux, Bud Conway and others who served at or were associated with Pleasant Grove CCC Camp and who helped us understand more about their lives and work there through interviews, visits to the remains of the camp, and the sites they worked on, and through pictures that they saved and so willingly shared with us.